

Charter School Legislation

- **Senate Enrolled Act 165-2001**

This bipartisan legislation established charter schools in Indiana.

- **House Enrolled Act 1108-2002**

This legislation authorized charter schools sponsored by the Mayor of Indianapolis to obtain financing through a local public improvement bond bank.

- **Senate Enrolled Act 501-2003**

This legislation incorporated an improved charter school funding system within the broader school funding formula.

2005

Senate Bill 289 – would require charter schools to submit a budget to the governing body of the school corporation in which the charter school is located for review and approval.

Senate Bill 598 – would require the Department of Education to publish school performance reports.

House Bill 1484 – regards charter school facility funding issues.

House Bill 1674 – would allow the mayor of a second class city to sponsor a charter school.

House Bill 1694 – would authorize accredited private four-year universities and colleges to be charter school sponsors. (Under current law, only public universities and colleges can sponsor charter schools.)

Progress

The success of charter schools around the country is widely debated. Conclusive data regarding their success or failure has yet to be provided, but the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) outlined broad findings in a study of fourth-graders that indicated charter school students are showing comparable progress with peers in public schools.

Indiana charter schools must make adequate progress, and students must meet academic ISTEP+ standards to remain open.

Academic progress is being monitored closely, but the future of charter schools in Indiana is still undecided.

For more information visit:

- www.doe.state.in.us/charterschools
- www.indianacharters.org

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Indiana Charter Schools



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Indiana State Senate
Democrat Caucus

About Indiana Charter Schools

What is a Charter School?

A charter school is an independent public school. They serve as alternatives to the regular public schools to which students are assigned.

Indiana has 25 charter schools that serve nearly 3,000 students.

The school enters into a “charter” contract with a sponsor, such as a public university, who provides an education with specific goals.

These goals may include different learning styles and innovative educational methods, varied opportunities for professional educators, and increased parental, community and student involvement.

Funding

As public schools, charters are not allowed to charge admission or tuition. They are funded according to enrollment, receiving money from the district and state according to the number of students attending.

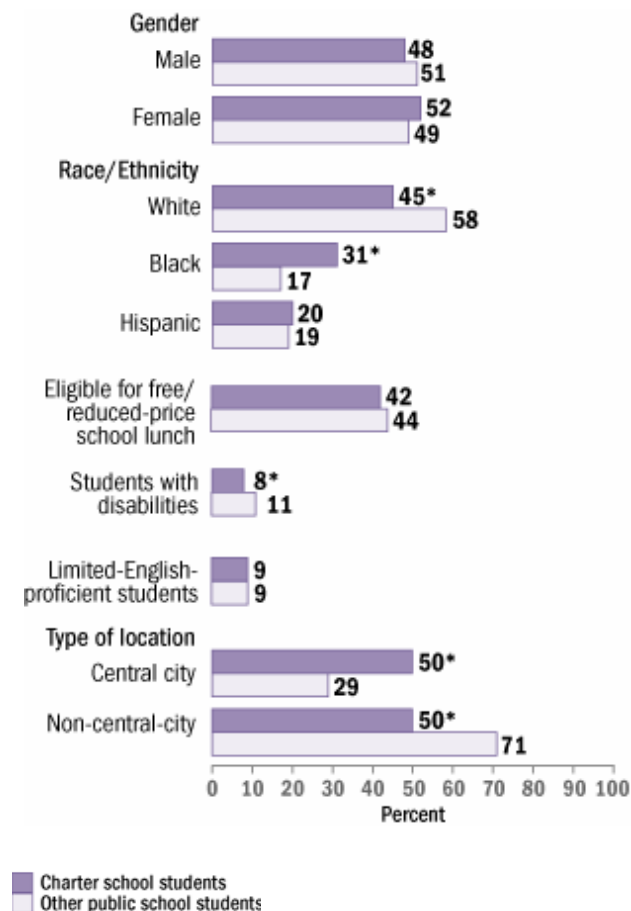
In most states, charters do not receive capital funds for facilities, and federal legislation provides grants to help charters with start-up costs.

Who Attends Charter Schools?

Charter schools are similar to public schools in many respects, but they often differ in the makeup of the student population and their location. For example, in comparison to other public

schools, higher percentages of charter school fourth-grade students represent minorities or attend schools in inner city settings.

4th grade national charter school attendance in 2003



*Significantly different from other public schools.

Information provided by National Assessment of Educational Progress

Charter school legislation was designed to provide innovative and autonomous public educational programs that carry five primary purposes:

1. Serve the different learning styles and needs of public school students.
2. Offer public school students appropriate and innovative choices.
3. Afford varied opportunities for professional educators.
4. Allow public schools flexibility in exchange for greater levels of accountability.
5. Provide parents, students, community members and local entities with an expanded opportunity for involvement in the public school system.